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The LABOUR ORGANISER

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**LOCAL
ELECTIONS**

★

**A Message
from the
Prime
Minister**

ESTABLISHED 1920

SITUATIONS VACANT

BRIXTON LABOUR PARTY requires **FULL-TIME AGENT**. Salary as **National Scale**. Details of age, experience, etc., to Secretary, 50 Wiltshire Road, London, S.W.9.

The **BALHAM AND TOOTING LABOUR PARTY** invites applications for the position of **FULL-TIME AGENT**. Salary in accordance with the Agents' National Scale. Applications, stating age, experience, Labour Party, Trade Union and Co-operative connection and experience and such other qualifications as the candidate cares to put forward, together with two recent references, should be forwarded to the Secretary, Balham and Tooting Labour Party, 12 Balham Park Road, S.W.12, not later than November 7th. Envelopes should be marked "Application."

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The Labour Organiser

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Communications to be addressed to the Labour Party

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The Prime Minister says

THE Labour Party remembers with pride and gratitude how its organisers and key workers in the constituencies rose so magnificently to the occasion in the General Election campaign.

In large measure they were the "technicians of victory," and I am confident that no other political party was so well served by its full-time staff and such a devoted army of voluntary workers.

In the coming borough elections, vital issues are at stake and I am confident that Labour's organisers and voluntary workers will display the same enthusiasm, skill and will-to-win spirit as they showed at the General Election.

A Labour Council can best carry out Labour's plans. We cannot allow the Government's great reconstruction schemes to be nullified or held up by apathetic or unsympathetic administrations on the local authorities.

From the General Election results, it is obvious that many more Town Halls can be won for Labour. Go into the fight with full confidence, in the knowledge that you are members of a great national team and that the tide of public opinion is flowing with Labour.

I wish you all the joy of victory and the satisfaction of work well done.

C. R. ATTLEE,

Prime Minister.

ROUND THE REGIONS

GATHERING THE MEMBERSHIP HARVEST

Gratifying as was the impressive progress registered by the General Election results, the growth and development of Parties in the **South-Western** area since polling day may give rise to more solid satisfaction. In nearly every constituency Divisional Officers have been kept busy during the past three months meeting the demands for recruitment of a ready and willing membership, and instructing groups of new and eager members in the art and science of running a Local Labour Party. By the end of the year about one-quarter of our Constituency Parties should have reached a four-figure membership. It is significant that the principal cities and towns are not leading in the gathering of this harvest; it is in the small market towns and substantial villages of the countryside that the rate of increase is highest. This applies to every county in the South-West, and the big rural constituencies of Somerset and Devon vie with one another at present for pride of place.

MANY COUNTY CANDIDATES

The Devon County Federation has approached the coming County Council elections with commendable thoroughness, and preparations are being made to place in the field a large team of candidates contesting on a common programme. Gloucestershire and Somerset Federations also have this important business in hand. The Wiltshire Federation, following a long period of inactivity, has again lined up, and is making the County Council elections its primary business.

In all the principal boroughs and most of the smaller ones preparations for the imminent municipal elections, on a scale never attempted previously, will culminate in a campaign on which high hopes are based. Not many Parties will shuffle through these elections cheaply and shabbily; the necessity for adequate financing of the campaigns is generally recognised and provision is being made for it. The advantages of a considerable measure of centralised direction and of buying have also been realised.

LOCAL PAMPHLETS

The phenomenal success of "Let Us Face the Future" has made a profound impression on our Parties, and similar local policy pamphlets will raise local electioneering to a new level in Bristol and Exeter.

There remains one element of doubt, even of misgiving — can we harness enough of the abundant enthusiasm and confidence into the conduct of a thorough methodical tracking-down of Labour supporters by house-to-house visitation to provide the committee-room record from which the maximum poll can be pulled on November 1st? There, in many wards, lies the balance between triumph and frustration.

ORGANISATION IS THE KEY

Rejoicing in the **Eastern Counties** has now given way to expressed determination to hold what we have, and to extend our power during the Local Elections.

Friends in several constituencies have reminded me that despite what I said about their feeble organisation they won their General Election victories. That is true; but I have replied, that had they been organised properly their majorities would have been greater.

Fortunately, this is being realised more than ever before; and one of the positive gains arising from the General Election is the widespread belief, that organisation is the key to complete success.

Consequently a steadily growing number of Parties are seeking to employ full-time Agents, as the first step towards consolidating their position.

The unfortunate drawback is that we haven't enough suitable Agents to fill the jobs which are available, but with the return of more of our members from the Forces and the training of younger adherents, it is confidently hoped that we shall surmount this obstacle ere long.

RECRUITS POURING IN

There is a feeling abroad that some Constituency Parties which need Agents most stand the least chance of getting them, and that something

Round the Regions (cont.)

should be done to provide full-time agency service in every agricultural constituency. It is an opinion which I share strongly, for only thus can we establish and maintain the kind of organisation which is required.

Another positive gain is the influx of new people into our ranks. In some areas they seem to have poured in, as in the case of Luton where the Party is 3,000 strong.

Many of them are young. They appear to be keen and able, and given the necessary scope for their constructive capacities the Party will gain greatly thereby. Thanks to recent experiences, the proper use of effective personnel is now engaging the attention of Parties as never before, and this augurs well for the future.

All the splendid enthusiasm and resurgent faith which we witnessed during the General Election are now reflected in tremendous efforts to win power locally, and everywhere it is believed that we shall succeed. Truly, the link is being forged!

Finally, our members have more confidence than before. They no longer see through a glass darkly. They behold a future which is bright and beautiful and they go forward eagerly and unitedly to its realisation.

SOMETHING TO SING ABOUT

Since the declaration of the results of the General Election all sections of the Northern Divisional Parties have been celebrating the great victory in some form or other. Socials, dances, concerts, etc., have been the order of the day. The Northumberland Labour Women's Advisory Council's function was held in the Heaton Assembly Rooms, Newcastle, and took the form of a Social and Dance. It was attended by all the Northumberland Labour M.P.s and over 600 members of the various Parties.

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

The preparation for the Municipal Elections is now occupying the atten-

tion of the Borough Parties and every effort is being made to solidify the Parliamentary Victory by securing increased Labour representation on the Borough Councils. Great interest is being taken in these preparations, and it now appears that Labour candidates will contest practically every vacancy in this area. For example, in Newcastle City there are 37 vacancies all of which are to be contested. In consequence Ward Organisation has been developed in Wards where a short time ago it was felt to be impossible to make any headway in any form of Labour Organisation. Other boroughs now held by anti-Labour forces, such as Middlesbrough, Gateshead, Darlington, Stockton, Wallsend and Tynemouth, are being contested by a record number of Labour candidates and in these Boroughs high hopes are entertained that Labour will be in control after 1st November.

To stimulate interest in Municipal Policy and organisation for the Municipal Elections, a very successful Conference was held in Newcastle on 22nd September. There was a good representation from Borough Parties, Labour Groups, Ward Committees and Borough M.P.s and keen interest was taken in the speeches of Mr. Morgan Phillips, Secretary of the Party, on Policy, and of Mr. R. T. Windle, on Organisation.

HOUSING CONFERENCE

At the request of the Northern Group of Labour M.P.s, a conference on Housing is to be held at Durham on 13th October. Labour Councillors serving on Housing Committees have been invited to meet the M.P.s and place before them their problems in regard to Housing. This, it is hoped, will be the forerunner of many such consultations between the Members of Parliament and the Local Government representatives.

THEIR BIG CHANCE

Following the victory celebrations throughout the North-West the Parties have speedily settled down to the



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Round the Regions (cont.)

problems presented by the forthcoming municipal elections. Almost every constituency in the North-West is affected by these elections, as there are 21 County Boroughs and 35 non-County Boroughs in the region covering an electorate of over 4,000,000. At this election many Parties have their first real chance of securing a majority and "Power for Labour" is the slogan of the contests. In the majority of the boroughs Labour is contesting every vacancy and election preparations are well in hand.

In these elections, as at the General Election, the Regional Council has asked all Parties to give attention to the development of Individual Membership and as a result of the continued efforts there is no doubt that membership in the Region will this year be the highest in the history of the Party. New local Labour Parties and Women's Sections have been and are being established and, still more pleasing, Leagues of Youth are emerging in a number of centres.

The Annual Meeting of the Regional Council was held on September 29th at the Co-operative Hall, Downing Street, Manchester, when 333 delegates representing an affiliated and individual membership of 590,000 were present. The Right Hon. George Tomlinson, J.P., M.P., C.C., presided and the Right Hon. Emanuel Shinwell, M.P., and Mr. Morgan Phillips represented the National Executive Committee.

OUT FOR POWER

Labour holds 41 of the 51 Parliamentary seats in the Yorkshire region, but the Municipal position is much less satisfactory.

Out of a total of 24 Boroughs only four are at present under Labour control. Of the cities, Sheffield has a Labour majority; but despite the fact that Hull and Bradford each captured their four Parliamentary seats and Leeds captured five out of its six, Labour is in a minority on the councils there. Also, most of the other anti-Labour boroughs belong to Labour Parliamentary constituencies.

It is evident that a determined effort is being made to remedy this state of affairs. The Municipal Election cam-

paign has been prepared well ahead and it is certain that there are to be many more Wards contested this November than previously. Our parties in the larger towns are striking out courageously for power, while in the smaller boroughs a considerable increase in Labour representation is likely to be the outcome of the fight.

BIG MEMBERSHIP JUMP

Individual membership has shown a tremendous improvement since the General Election, well over 11,000 additional cards being ordered this year. There are now 15 parties ordering 1,000 cards, or more, but unfortunately no fewer than 10 still take the minimum number and of these seven are represented by a Labour M.P.

Many new local Labour Parties have been set up in county areas, especially in the East Riding, where we have always been extremely weak. These parties are now preparing for the Local and County Council Elections next year.

Labour is the biggest single party on the West Riding County Council, and hopes to get complete control after March 1st. On the East Riding there is at present only one Labour man, but he expects to be joined by at least another dozen.

PICKING THE BEST CANDIDATES

The enthusiasm caused by the General Election and excitement with which we in Wales received the results are now over.

Some little time ago, our Local Labour Parties etc., in Wales were advised to pay special attention to the question of nomination and selection of Local Government candidates, and we repeat that advice on the following grounds:—

(a) *We want to raise Local Government Administration to a higher level.*

(b) *Candidates should be selected on ability and suitability for Local Government Service.*

(c) *Popularity does not always coincide with ability and suitability.*

(d) *Women should be given equal opportunity with men. Nothing more, and NOTHING LESS.*

(e) *Candidates should be prepared to devote as much time as possible to their work as representatives, when elected.*

Round the Regions (cont.)

(f) *Men and women who have served in H.M. Forces during the war should not be overlooked.*

If this advice is acted upon and our policy presented to the electorate in an effective manner, we can with confidence look forward to gaining many seats.

We have for many years held the majority of seats on Local Government Bodies in the industrial parts of Wales, but this in itself is not sufficient. We must win power in those non-industrial areas. It can be done during the forthcoming elections if we go about it with the same zeal and enthusiasm as was displayed in the General Election.

NEW MEMBERS ROLLING IN

Having won 30 Parliamentary seats out of the 39 in the *East Midlands*—an exact reversal of the number of seats held by the Labour Party and anti-Labour Parties at the previous General Election—the Divisional Parties are now getting over the stage of holding victory celebrations and settling down to the work of organising substantial victories at the forthcoming Local Government Elections.

The General Election has brought new and interesting members to almost every unit of Party Organisation throughout the region. Their transparent keenness is appreciated by those who have fought for victory over many long years and in many places careful consideration is being given to arranging attractive meetings and social gatherings. A number are arranging courses of lectures and discussions in association with the N.C.L.C. and the W.E.A. Parties are also finding a ready market for literature. In divisions we failed to win, the national victory was celebrated both by old and new adherents and in a good number planning is in hand to secure victory on the next occasion.

New local parties are springing into existence in every County Division, and in the Boroughs the forthcoming Municipal Elections are providing just the pressure required to re-build the Ward Parties. It is good to see the interest of serving Aldermen and Councillors as well as that of candidates. In the six County Boroughs

and 17 Municipal Boroughs in the region, it looks as if the party will contest almost every seat on November 1st.

FARM MEN HELP

The Regional Council has held two Municipal Conferences, one for the County Boroughs and one for the Municipal Boroughs. Two representatives from each Borough Party and Labour Group attended and spent a profitable time discussing their common problems of organisation and policy.

The County Divisional Parties in association with their County Federations or County Committees have begun to face up to the difficult problems involved in fighting the County Urban and Rural County Elections and inquiries to the Regional Council Office about the procedure for the Parish Council Elections exhibit potential interest in the villages.

The Agricultural Workers' Union has already indicated that it is prepared to help substantially by way of providing financial assistance for any of its members who are elected Labour Members on County and Rural Authorities. Nominations, particularly in Lincolnshire, as a result of this arrangement are numerous and most encouraging.

Parties in the East Midlands are assuming that Tory Party organisation at the Local Government Elections will show a decided improvement as compared with the General Election. In this realist spirit, members intend, by hard work on their part, to ensure that a large percentage of Labour supporters record their votes at the Local Government Elections.

(Continued from page 13)

man a complete majority over both Tory and Liberal opponents.

His colleagues of the Yorkshire Branch of the Agents' Union held a lunch in Leeds on October 5th to mark Sam's retirement. The toast to Sam Eastwood was proposed by Wilfrid Whiteley, now agent for Elland, who was candidate in Colne Valley in the Khaki Election of 1918, and Arthur Gardiner, Huddersfield agent and branch chairman, presented Sam with a cheque as a token of the esteem and regard of his fellow agents in Yorkshire.

A.L.W.

IT PAYS TO PUBLICISE

APPOINT A PARTY PRESS OFFICER

By COLIN MacPHEE

The Labour Party is big news today. It's a fair bet that Local Parties will find no more favourable time than the present for getting down to a job that has often been mishandled or neglected in the past—Press Publicity.

Here is work for an enthusiast in each Party who knows clearly what he or she is about. It is work which will pay big dividends, if pursued systematically and energetically, as a few parties have already realised to their great benefit.

With a strong Labour Government in office and around 400 Labour M.P.s taking their part in the life of their communities up and down the country, it is obvious that the Press will have to pay more attention to Labour news and views than it has ever done in the past. This trend should be emphasised still further if, as may reasonably be expected, many more local authorities are won for Labour at the coming municipal elections.

ONE MAN'S JOB

This situation provides a great chance to make the Party and its activities both better and more widely known than ever before. How best can this be done at local Party level?

The first essential is to make one person in each local Party responsible for all press and publicity work and relieve him of all other duties.

Often young people, who have a flair for writing, will find it a valuable and interesting experience to prepare news paragraphs and other material for the local Press, and these should be encouraged to take up the work.

Easily the most important task of the Press Officer will be to "feed" the local Press with a variety of news items and close contact should be kept with the Editor of the local paper, or at least some member of the editorial staff.

TWO GOLDEN RULES

In writing the material, two golden rules should be observed—be brief and be accurate. It's always a mistake to shove in high-falutin' political jargon

into any report; the editors dislike it and, what's more, it can often be misconstrued.

The best plan is to write simply, with the emphasis on people and topical local issues rather than on the "materialistic interpretation" of something or other.

There's no reason why any monthly Party meeting can't be written up attractively enough to rate a few paragraphs in the local Press. About 250 words is generally enough, but sufficient can be said in this short compass to arouse the attention of many, who, although they may have voted Labour have only the foggiest notion of how the local Party goes about its business, where it meets, and so on.

Thus a constant stream of information should be available to the local Press about the M.P. or candidate, meetings, discussion groups, conferences, and socials, and many other events.

ANSWERING ANTI-LABOURISTS

Another aspect of the work is the organising of correspondence to the local Press. These letters should not necessarily be signed by the Press Officer (often a councillor or Party office-holder is the best person to sign a particular letter), but the material can be prepared by him.

In this way much blatant anti-Labour propaganda, which can often be seen in the correspondence columns of the local Press, can be answered quickly and adequately. With the advent of the Labour Government, this work could be coupled with the interpretation of the new measures which will be introduced from time to time.

Along these lines a Press Officer can render great service to a Local Party and to the wider movement, and find not a little fun in doing so.

If you fancy yourself at the job and there's no one doing it, why not volunteer? Or maybe you know of someone who'd fit the bill. Anyway, why not bring it up at the next meeting?

GENERAL ELECTION REFLECTIONS

WHERE SOME PARTIES FALL DOWN

BY A CANDIDATE

To introduce a candidate to an electorate only several weeks before a campaign means that he has little chance either to get to know the constituency or the citizens therein. It would seem desirable to adopt a candidate at least six months before an election and probably much earlier.

It is important that he should have a chance to get to know not only the party, its affiliated bodies, and the working-class organisations in general, but also groups like the Churches, the Chamber of Commerce, Rotary and trade and professional associations. In any constituency there are any number of these organisations which would be only too interested and anxious to meet the candidate. If however, he is adopted too near the election he will not have time to meet them.

Another factor which sometimes makes it difficult for candidates to get to know other sections of opinion in a constituency is the fact that Labour Party members rather tend to be too self-sufficient. Many members think that they should rely only on themselves and either are not interested in, or are hostile to other bodies.

Better Publicity Needed

*I suggest that when a candidate is adopted, a public relations officer should be appointed who should have the one job, and no other job, of making the candidate as widely known in the division as possible, utilising all contacts with other persons and bodies which members of the Party and their friends can provide. It is important to emphasise that this office could not be combined satisfactorily with any other post.**

One constituency at the General Election, 1945, fixed four or five meetings for the candidate almost every night for three weeks. He did not possess a car, but no one in the Party had thought how he was to make his

way from meeting to meeting by way of the very inadequate public transport. In fact, it would have been impossible; only a car was provided by a person not a member of the Party.

Constituencies should also remember that their agent will need at least one fulltime shorthand-typist and possibly more than one. The candidate alone will have a number of letters to answer each day and it is impossible to expect him to do his work properly if he has to answer them by hand.

Privacy Essential

It may sound incredible to many readers, but there are still parties that do not seem to be aware that the agent and the candidate should each have a separate room at the central committee rooms. One Party known to the writer had one room for the candidate, agent, typist and helpers. Needless to say, this did not conduce to efficiency.

Another elementary point of which some parties still seem unconscious, is, that the candidate should stay where he can sometimes have a little privacy. It is not necessarily possible for him to have sufficient rest if he is staying with a Party member. Even in these days it is worth while for him to stay at an hotel where he will be able occasionally to get away from the claims that people make on him.

Good Meals

Combined with that he will need—there is no denying it—good meals at impossible hours. This is not a counsel of perfection, nor is it a plea for special privileges, but simply a condition of efficiency for many candidates during a period of considerable strain.

These reflections to many experienced Party workers will appear very obvious. On the other hand, they are scarcely understood in those constituencies where the conditions of success have still to be created.

Union Membership is Jumping

By R. H. LEY, General Secretary

Since the commencement of the new year the number of new members admitted to the Union amounts to thirty-five, whilst other appointments are under consideration. This is a decided advance and shows that constituency parties are realising the need for better organisation under the personal supervision of trained people. The new appointments have mainly been persons between 30-40 years of age who have had experience in the Party.

The Executive Committee of the Union have asked the Adjustments Board to consider the question of merging the present war bonus into a new salary scale for Agents. If we are to attract the right type of person to take up the work of Agents and organisers this will have to be done.

AGENTS AND CANDIDATURES

The Union members are still perturbed over the question of the rights of Agents to stand as Parliamentary candidates. We must have freedom, especially for our younger members, who feel that they would like to take up a Parliamentary career. What we object to in the policy laid down by the National Executive and rushed through an Annual Conference, is that Agents must resign their Agencies before they can go to a selection conference.

We feel that they should be allowed to proceed to a selection conference without any penalty being imposed upon them. Also, the disability of an Agent being prevented from practicing for a period of two years after. This is not Democracy but Dictatorship.

I would like to point out among others that the late Arthur Henderson, the Right Hon. Herbert Morrison, and Mr. A. Woodburn practised as Agents and organisers before entering Parliament.

PROXY VOTING

A Kensington Labour Party Notice

If you hold a proxy voting paper for a man or woman in the Services you can use the proxy vote in the Municipal elections in the same way as in the General Election last July.

If you have lost the proxy paper, ask the official at the polling station to find your name on the list of proxies and to issue you a ballot paper. Your identity card will help you to prove to him that you are the proxy and you will be allowed to vote.

If you are in the Services or have been recently discharged from the Services and you have appointed a proxy you can vote in person if your proxy has not already voted for you.

Remember that the proxy vote is most important this time as Service men and women will not vote by post in these elections.

DEADLINE

We hope in future to publish the Labour Organiser on or about the 15th of each month.

Would contributors please note, therefore, that the last date for receiving copy is the 7th of each month.

For a variety of reasons, publication has been irregular in recent months—but we aim to do better from now on.

Would contributors help us all they can by getting their material into Transport House up to time?

Remember that we are always glad to have contributions on any subject likely to interest our readers. Labour's great Parliamentary victory will mean new opportunities, as well as new responsibilities, for the Movement throughout the country. Let's hear from you how we should face up to the big jobs ahead.

The address for contributions is The Editor, Labour Organiser, Transport House, Smith Square, London, S.W.1.

Premier at Scots Conference

By JOHN TAYLOR (Scottish Secretary)

Throughout the Party, in every department, power and responsibility have brought doubled and sometimes trebled work, and the Scottish Office is no exception. Apparently people are queuing up outside every telephone booth in Scotland to ring us up asking for copies of the Model Rules. M.P.s to speak at their meetings, model election addresses suitable for a District Council election, an organiser to come along to their meetings to put them right on points of procedure, etc., etc., while correspondence mounts up to be hastily dealt with between the frantic round of meetings, conferences and consultations, with a by-election thrown in to be taken in our stride.

Amid this bustling life I report the high spots.

30th Annual Scottish Conference

The ancient Burgh of Musselburgh which sits cheek by jowl with Edinburgh on the Firth of Forth, steadily refusing to be incorporated, is in a flutter of excitement as these notes are written, for the Prime Minister, chief visitor to the 30th Annual Conference of the Scottish Council of the Labour Party, held for the first time in that Burgh, is to meet them, lunch with them, visit their Labour Hall and Labour Club and meet their Provost, Bailies, Councillors and Party members on October 20th.

This year's Conference, lasting two days, has a crowded Agenda, but shows every sign that it will be the most memorable of a long series of famous gatherings.

Local Elections

In Scotland we are taking all our local elections at one bite before the end of the year—the Burgh elections in November and the County and District Council elections in December. Well over a thousand key workers, Councillors and Candidates attended three Conferences organised by the Scottish Executive to give the campaigns a rousing start. The feeling of victory is in the air and substantial progress on all Municipal fronts can be expected.

Only one complaint emerged from these Conferences—that the excellent literature prepared by the Publications Department for the elections, prints the election date as November 1st, whereas in Scotland it is November 6th. A pity, for it renders the Head Office publications unusable in Scotland and we could not produce anything half as good at twice the price if we produced locally.

The lead given by the Scottish Executive is: "Fight every vacancy with a Labour Candidate. There are no backward areas nowadays. Engage the enemy wherever he is and select the best possible candidates for the job. Aim at a Labour majority in every District Council, Burgh Council, City Council and County Council."

Although this line is being taken up with considerable enthusiasm, there are still a few snags here and there, mainly based on the clashing of personalities. Ward loyalties on occasion conflict with the Local Parties' idea of Burgh interests and unselected nominees do not invariably carry their disappointments with the best of grace, but these are troubles incidental to the circumstance that, after seven uncontested elections and a host of co-optations, more candidates are required than ever before in the Party's history.

Growing Membership and New Parties

It is pleasing to record that we are keeping the Directories' Department busy these days registering new Local Labour Parties and Women's Sections, while the curve on the membership chart keeps on the up-and-up. This causes us no excitement yet, however, as we still have some considerable leeway to make up.

More By-Elections?

The East Edinburgh By-Election, rushed through in a fortnight, completed the hat-trick with Aston and Smethwick. Rumours of more byes are afoot, all affecting anti-Labour seats. At the moment this is just our cup of tea. Let 'em all come!

ROUND THE PARTIES

CARD FOR STREET STEWARDS

Councillor Dennis Gordon, livewire chairman of the Kingston Borough Labour Party, reports success with Kingston's plan for organising street stewards for ward parties. For every group of a couple of dozen members or so street stewards are appointed, whose duty it is to maintain close contact with their sections. The stewards are armed with a specially-printed enrolment card, reproduced below. "I feel this has a definite psychological value," Mr. Gordon says.



This is to certify that

**is appointed to act as
Street Steward for
Kingston Borough
Labour Party**

Anyway, the proof of the plan is in its results—and Kingston has every reason to be proud of these. Out of an electorate of 22,000; the Party has 1,125 members. This is in a Borough which has only one Labour member on the Town Council. Canvassing parties have been going out every Sunday morning for 2½ years also without a break. Mr. Gordon himself enrolled 600 new members during the General Election campaign.

MANY NEW PARTIES

Vigorous new local parties are being formed throughout the country, many as a result of contacts established, and the great fellowship experienced, during the General Election.

At Auchterarder, in the Kinross and West Perth Division, where they practically doubled the Labour vote, a local party was formed early in August. Mr. Alfred Scott, who has been a member of the Labour Party in Dundee for over 30 years, was elected secretary. Other office-bearers are: Chairman, Mr. F. H. Anderson; vice-chairman, Mr. John Macdonald; treasurer, Mrs. Robert Reid.

At Howden, Yorkshire, a new party was also set up in August. Mr. Tom Neville, the Labour candidate in the General Election, was among those present.

OFFICE-BEARERS

The office-bearers are: Chairman, Mr. P. O'Connor; secretary, Mr. W. Stevens; treasurer, Mr. T. Brewster.

Further south, at the village of Little London, near Basingstoke, preliminary efforts are well under way for forming a local party. At the inaugural meeting, the principal speaker was Mr. C. J. Harris, election agent for the Basingstoke Labour Party who stressed the need for having local parties in every village. Mr. F. Brickell, of Kempshott, gave a short address on the struggles of the pioneers of Trade Unionism.

NEWSY NEWS LETTER

Congratulations to the Worsley Labour Party, in the Farnworth Division, on their neat, informative News Letter. The October issue covers many aspects of Party activities and gives the good news that membership is now nearing 1,000—an increase of 125 since the General Election.

Reports are given on the work of the various Ward Committees, the Men's and Women's Section, the Young People's Organisation, Discussion Group and Drama Group. Particulars are also given of coming events.

Altogether the News Letter is an enterprising effort and it is one that could be emulated with profit by many other local parties.

THE READING THAT LABOUR WANTS

In 1420 a Gild House was built near to the George Inn at Reading. In this Hall the members of Parliament for Reading were chosen, and on the feast of St. Michael the Custos or Mayor was elected. The Gild Hall stood on the bank of Holy Brook where the women came to wash clothes. This open-air laundry became so popular, and the noise made by the women beating their dirty linen with "batel-dores" became so great that by 1543 the burgesses could not hear themselves speak in their own hall.

So, the Gild Hall ceased to be the centre of Reading's civic life.

Nearly four centuries later, when John Taylor (now Scottish Secretary of the Labour Party) was Agent at Reading, a Labour Hall was built on the site of the old Gild Hall and once again this spot became a meeting place of burgesses who were keen to serve their generation.

Reading was an important place even in those long-ago days when Alfred (of cake-burning fame) was a boy, but the Reading Labour Party lives for the future, not for the dim past.

In "The Reading We Want," the Labour Party sets out in some detail plans for Reading, which offer to the citizens a golden opportunity of opening yet another new and glorious chapter in the history of this Berkshire town.

New Industries

The Reading Labour Party advocates the establishment of new industries in the town, such as the processing (including dehydration) and packing of foodstuffs. It places new emphasis on canal transport, for Reading is the largest town on a continuous inland waterway system connecting South Wales and Bristol with London.

The Party faces up to the problems created by the demand for nearly 4,000 new houses. "Modern research has shown the necessity for building in comparatively small "community" or "neighbourhood" units. By doing this, all sections of the population are mixed, instead of being segregated; homes are reasonably close to work, facilities and amenities and transport problems are lessened."

The Reading Labour Party lines up behind the government in its deter-

mination to provide a comprehensive, universal and free health service for all citizens. It advocates "the establishment of fully-equipped health centres; increased provision of maternity hospitals, with extended domiciliary assistance in maternity cases; specialist clinics wherever necessary throughout the Borough, and particularly on housing estates; the general extension, modernisation and re-equipment of hospitals, with special facilities for combating cancer and tuberculosis, including mass radiography, and the provision of convalescence facilities; adequate accommodation for mental cases, as well as occupational centres for rehabilitation."

"The Reading We Want" also deals with such matters as Water Supply, Municipal Transport, and Education.

Labour needs to win thirteen seats at Reading to gain control of the Borough and if the General Election result is an indication of the manner in which the electors will cast their votes on 1st November, yet another municipality will be marked down as "Labour Gain."

FRANK SHEPHERD.

"The Reading We Want": Published by the Reading Labour Party (2d.) Copies from J. A. W. Douglas, The Labour Hall, Minster Street, Reading.

HE WAS VICTOR GRAYSON'S AGENT

For over forty years Sam Eastwood has been associated with the political Labour movement in the Colne Valley, and for the greater part of that time he has been secretary and agent. He is now retiring to make way for a younger man, following his great victory in the General Election.

Colne Valley was put on the political map by the famous by-election which resulted in the return of Victor Grayson to the House of Commons. It was known as the constituency which sent Philip Snowden back to Westminster after he had been rejected by the electors of Blackburn. Ernest Marklew regained it for Labour in 1935 and Glanville Hall held it with a substantial majority in the 1939 by-election. But it was not until this year that the Colne Valley electors gave a Labour

(Continued on page 7)

Points About The November Elections

MUNICIPAL, METROPOLITAN AND SCOTTISH

NOMINATION

Municipal Boroughs, last day not later than 5 p.m. on the eighth day before the day of election. Tuesday, October 23rd.

Metropolitan Boroughs, last day not later than 12 noon on the twelfth day before the day of election. Thursday, October 18th.

Scottish Burghs, before 4 p.m. on the Friday immediately preceding the last Tuesday of October. Friday, October 26th.

No person shall sign more than one nomination paper in respect of the same candidate, nor for more than one ward, nor shall he sign more nomination papers than there are vacancies to be filled in the borough or ward as the case may be.

Candidate's Consent (England and Wales). A person shall not be validly nominated unless his consent given in writing on or within one month before the last day of nomination, and attested by one witness is delivered at the place and within the time appointed for the delivery of nomination papers.

A FORM OF CONSENT.

.....Town

I, the undersigned.....of.....

hereby consent to my nomination as a candidate at the election of
a councillor for.....(borough) (ward) to be held on the
first day of November, 1945.

Dated this.....day of.....1945.

Signed.....

In the presence of.....Address.....

Scotland.—The nomination paper provides for the consent of the candidate.

Telegraphed Consent.—A candidate who is outside the United Kingdom as a member of the Forces, a seaman, or a war worker abroad, can give his consent to nomination by telegram. His consent need not be attested, but the telegram must be sent on or within one month of the last day for nominations and be delivered to the R.O. by or before the last day for nominations.

Withdrawal of a Candidate.—Must be by a notice signed by the candidate and attested by one witness and delivered by last nomination day.

Scotland requires the notice to be signed by the candidate or his law agent, and his two proposers, by Monday, October 29th.

Nomination in more than one Ward (England and Wales). — Candidate must withdraw by notice as above from all wards but one.

Filling up Nomination Paper.—The omission of the P.D. letter or full register number can invalidate the paper. It is held that the number must be correctly given. One Christian name should be signed in full, as one initial is held not to disclose identity. J. Smith may be (John) (James) (Jasper) (Jonathan) Smith. Place of abode is residence, not a business address.

The nomination papers may be delivered personally or by post.

Validity of Nomination Papers.—After the expiration of the time for delivery of the nomination papers, the R.O. shall examine them. Ordinarily the R.O. has no jurisdiction over the qualification of a candidate. He decides on the validity of the nomination paper as a legal form. His decision that a paper is valid cannot be questioned, but if he decides that a paper is invalid the decision can be subject to review on an election petition. He notifies the candidate of his decision and publishes the notice of nomination on the following day.

Scotland.—The Town Clerk shall, if the nomination paper is in, or as nearly as can be, in the form and contains the particulars prescribed, deal with it as valid, but otherwise he shall reject the paper and the same shall be null and void.

Extension of Polling Hours.—Where there is one vacancy, one candidate can by notice in writing signed by him request that the poll be kept open until 9 p.m. If there are more vacancies than one in a borough or ward as the case may be, the requests must be sent in by as many candidates as there are vacancies. If there are two Labour candidates in a ward then both must send in notices. Notices must be sent in before 2 p.m. on the sixth day before the poll, i.e., Thursday, October 25th. (London, October 22nd.)

Scotland.—Council can extend polling hours by resolution, not later than one month before the notice of election.

Appointment of Polling and Counting Agents.—Notices must be received by the R.O. at least two clear days before the day of election. The last day is therefore Monday, October 29th. Send the notices before this last day if possible. Ascertain from the R.O. how many agents are allowed. The agents must make a declaration of secrecy. The R.O. will supply declaration forms.

Scottish Burghs one clear day before, but wise to send names earlier.

Recount.—A candidate or agent may request a recount before the result is declared, but there is no statutory provision for this and consent is at the discretion of the R.O.

Equality of Votes.—The R.O. may give a casting vote by word of mouth or in writing. If he does not do so, the double return makes the election void and a new election will follow.

Imprint must appear on all bills, placards and posters.

Flags, Banners and other Marks of Distinction are prohibited.

Candidate's Right to Free Use of Schoolrooms.—In effect Sec. 69 L.G.A. 1933 gives candidates the same claim to the use of public elementary schools as for Parliamentary elections. No payment can be claimed for the use of the room, but charges can be made for incidental expense, such as light, heat, cleaning, etc.

Committee Rooms.—If hired, one for the borough or ward, as the case may be, and one for each 2,000 electors or part thereof, over the first 2,000 in the borough or ward as the case may be. There is no legal limit to the number of lent committee rooms, but for the main ones a valuation figure should be put in the Return.

Clerks and Messengers.—If employed for payment, two for the borough or ward, as the case may be, and one for each 1,000 or part over the first 2,000 in the borough or ward, as the case may be, 3,000 electors=three persons.

Loud Speakers on Polling Day.—There is no electoral prohibition to prevent a candidate using a loud speaker on the streets on polling day provided he keeps clear of the entrances to polling stations. The question of using them is one for some discretion. If a canvass has been done it is not desirable, as its effect is to stir up the opposition voters also. On the other hand, in very strong Labour roads its psychological effect may be good. Give due consideration to the matter for best advantage.

Election Returns.—Not prescribed for Metropolitan Boroughs, but election expenses must be legal.

Municipal Boroughs and Scottish Burghs.—Claims within 14 days; payments within 21 days; returns and declarations within 28 days.

Extended Period.—In the case of candidates abroad section 3 of the Local Elections (Service Abroad) Act, 1945, enables the R.O. at a local election to extend to such period as he thinks reasonable the time within which a candidate may make a declaration and return of expenses.

Election Returns of Joint Candidates.—Each candidate has to put in his own signed declaration, and in order to show he has not exceeded the maximum expenditure allowed, must put in a return of his own. To put in a return covering the joint candidates and merely each candidate signing it would not appear to be in order. Each of the candidates must make up a return based on the allocation of costs, but the returns can be sent in together with the total bills and receipts attached to them. A borough party providing material to candidates can give receipts to them for the proportionate amounts involved.

Labour Party Publications List

PAMPHLETS:

"About The Labour Party," by Morgan Phillips. Post free: 1 copy, 3d.; 12 copies, 1s. 6d.; 100 copies, 12s.

"Ernest Bevin's Work In Wartime."

"Herbert Morrison's Work in the War Government."

Post free: 1 copy, 3d.; 12 copies, 1s. 9d.; 100 copies, 13s.; 500 copies, £3 2s. 6d.; 1,000 copies, £6.

"Plan for Peace," by Ellen Wilkinson, M.P.

"Wings for Peace."

"Party Organisation." Post free: 1s.

"Conduct of Parliamentary Election." Post free: 2s. 6d.

"Speakers' Handbook." Post free: 2s. 6d.

"Build Your Own Future." Post free: 1 copy 2d., 12 10d., 100 6/-.

"National Service for Health."

"The Nation's Food."

"Our Land."

"International Post-War Settlement."

"Full Employment and Financial Policy."

"Social Progress in New Zealand," by the Hon. Walter Nash.

"Let Us Face the Future." Post free: 1 copy 3d., 12 1/9, 100 13/-, 500 £3 2s. 6d., 1,000 £6.

"Coal and Power."

"Post-War Organisation of British Transport."

Post free: 1 copy 4d., 12 2/6, 50 8/-, 100 15/-.

"The Colonies." Post free: 1 copy 4d., 12 2/6, 50 10/-, 100 17/6.

"Rent Acts Guide." Post free: 1 copy 7½d., 6 3/-, 12 5/6.

"Leon Blum Before his Judges." Post free: 1 copy 1/4, 12 10/-, 50 £2, 100 £3 10s.

SUBSCRIPTION SERVICES:

Pamphlets and Leaflets—Annual Conference Report (as issued) 5/- per year, post free.

The Labour Press Service (issued fortnightly) 5/- per year, post free.

Notes for Speakers (issued weekly) 10/- per year, post free.

Labour Party Bulletin (issued monthly), 2/- per year, post free.

Labour Woman (issued monthly), 2/6 per year, post free.

Labour (issued monthly by the T.U.C.), 3/6 per year, post free.

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